

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/817,365
Amendment filed February 10, 2005
Reply to OA dated August 11, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A seal assembly comprising:

a pair of seal rings (1) and (1) individually comprising lip portions (23) and (23) disposed such that each of said lip portions (23) and (23) protrudes in an axial direction opposing the protruding direction of the other lip portion;

a load seal ring (2) compressed and inserted between said seal rings (1) and (1), said load seal ring (2) exerting reaction forces on said lip portions (23) and (23) outwardly in the axial direction, and said load seal ring (2) having an inner peripheral surface (30) having an axial-direction length less than that of an outer peripheral surface (26); and

an inner-diameter controller body (33), in contact with said load seal ring, for controlling the displacement of said load seal ring (2) in a third periphery [[inner]] direction, one of said seal rings (1) and (1) comprises a controller body (32) for controlling the displacement of said load seal ring (2) in a first periphery direction, and the other one of said seal rings (1) and (1) comprises another controller body (32) for controlling the displacement of said load ring (2) in a second periphery direction, said second periphery direction being opposite said first periphery direction.

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